

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# ON TAP

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## DIMENSION WATER TREATMENT PLANT TOUR

On Saturday morning, October 8<sup>th</sup>, TCWD hosted a tour of the Dimension Water Treatment Plant (DWTP) for the local Orange County chapter of the national group Engineers4Kids USA. Engineers4Kids USA is an engineering and science outreach program for grades four through six. The group's focus for 2011 was the protection of natural resources, so representatives of Engineers4Kids reached out to TCWD to learn how the District actively meets this challenge.



*Chief Plant Operator Gary Kessler speaking on TCWD's water filtration methods*

This tour was an excellent opportunity to teach local residents how drinking water makes its way to the faucets in their homes. TCWD employee Gary Kessler, Water Department Chief Plant Operator, explained how raw untreated water enters the DWTP, and the different types of treatment methods that are used to ensure that the water meets the stringent

Department of Public Health rules. He then explained how the water is then pumped to their homes via TCWD's Distribution System.

The visitor's questions ranged widely from how water is delivered to their neighborhoods to what are the advanced treatment methods used to ensure that the water is safe for drinking, including the feasibility of desalination. From all of us at TCWD, we wish all of the students in Engineers4Kids USA the best of luck in your upcoming competition!

## THE IMPACT OF HOLIDAY MEALS

With the holidays fast approaching, many of us plan to cook special meals to share with families and friends. There is a potential hidden danger to the sewer infrastructure in these meal preparations, both residential sewer pipes and District-managed sanitary sewer mains. This hidden danger is grease.

Grease needs to be handled carefully all year round, but especially this time of year. Larger quantity of grease created by cooking a turkey, ham, or roast can result in problems within your home's sewer pipes or within your neighborhood, if not disposed of properly.

Never pour grease down your sink drain, toilet, or garbage disposal unit. Instead, pour the grease waste into a can and refrigerate or freeze until solid, and then dispose of it on trash day. An empty soup can works well for everyday cooking. However, you may want to save an empty coffee can to hold the grease waste for larger holiday meals. Finally, when cleaning up after the meal, wipe the excess grease from pots, pans, and utensils with paper towels before washing.



**TCWD'S Vactor Truck is routinely used to clean District sewer main lines as preventative maintenance.**

Grease poured down kitchen sinks and other drains can be a great contributor to residential sewage blockages as well as larger sewage spills. These few simple steps can make a difference in helping TCWD protect the environment by preventing sewer spills.

### **CONTROL BOARD VIOLATION FINE UPDATE**

At the October 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting, District staff provided an update on the fines imposed by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region Nine, concerning Santa Margarita Water District's (SMWD) March 2010 sewer spill.

The Region Nine Board has issued a *Notice of Proposed Settlement of Enforcement Action* with the stipulated order for a total administrative civil liability of \$890,000. This *Settlement* was approved by the Region Nine Board at a meeting in San Diego held on September 14, 2011.

While the majority of this fine is the responsibility of SMWD, TCWD is responsible for a portion of the fine. TCWD will keep you posted on how this matter develops.

### **MWD POSSIBLE RATE INCREASE**

TCWD publicly reviewed the initial projections from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) concerning their water rate increases, effective January 1, 2012. A Special Board Meeting was held on October 11, 2011, at 6:00 PM at TCWD's Main Office to review the preliminary data.

Effective January 1, 2012, MWD is increasing their wholesale water rates by an average of 7.5 percent. This increase affects the wholesale water rates of both treated and untreated water. The total amount of water purchased by TCWD annually represents approximately 36 percent of the fiscal budget expenditures.

As a result of the MWD rate increase, TCWD has increased the base rate by five percent, which translates to a five cent increase for a residential customer. This rate adjustment is to be applied to each tier in the District billing schedule effective January 1, 2011. If you have any questions or comments concerning the upcoming rate adjustment, please feel free to contact Customer Service or stop by the Main Office during business hours.

### **MAIN OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The District Main Office is scheduled to be closed for the observance of the following holidays:

Veteran's Day	November 11, 2011
Thanksgiving	November 24 and 25, 2011

Please feel free to stop to conduct any District business or ask questions concerning your service during normal business hours.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The Regular Board of Directors Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

### **BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The Board Meeting was held on October 19, 2011, and the following items are highlights from the Meeting:

- Status update relating to Storm Damage
- Status update relating to Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility
- Discussion relating to District-wide Reservoir Storage Requirements and Reservoir Site Feasibility Study.
- Discussion relating to proposed MWD/MWDOC Rate Increase
- Discussion relating to adjustment to sewer flat fees